GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:167
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have emphasised the need for a code of conduct for the media;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative through the Press Council of India or otherwise in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 FOR REPLY ON 29TH JULY, 2002

The Press Council of India, a self regulatory body for Press, has been established forthe purposes of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies. Section 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978 enjoins upon the Press Council to build up a Code of Conduct for newspapers, news agenciesand journalists in accordance with high professional standards. The Press Council hasaccordingly brought out a publication `Norms of Journalistic Conduct` which covers principles and ethics with regard to journalism and also guidelines on reporting the specific issues of public and national importance.

The Prasar Bharati, an autonomous organisation, adheres to explicit Broadcast andAdvertising Codes. Satellite channels transmitting programmes through cable networks, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.